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Minutes of
Selma Association
for organizing 1886.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Selma Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

PROVIDENCE CHURCH,

Near Orrville, Alabama,

AUGUST 3, 4 AND 5, 1886.

Meets Next Year with Pleasant Hill Church, on Tuesday before the 2nd Sunday in August.

SELMA, ALA.:
FROM THE PRESSES OF THE SELMA PRINTING COMPANY.
1886.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Read letters from the churches.
3. Organization.
4. Recess.
5. Miscellaneous.
   (*a*) Admit new churches.
   (*b*) Receive and appoint correspondents.
   (*c*) Appoint committees.
6. Reports of standing committees.
7. Reports of special committees.
8. Miscellaneous.

[The report of the Treasurer and of the Finance Committee, and other matter not herein specified, may be presented as miscellaneous business, which shall be in order at any time when there is no subject under consideration.]

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SELMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

FIRST DAY.

Pursuant to adjournment the delegates from the churches composing the Selma Association, met at Providence church, near Orrville, Alabama, on Tuesday, August 3rd, 1886.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder E. F. Baber from the 19th chapter of Luke, latter clause of 13th verse, "Occupy till I come." Subject or outline: "We are the Lord's tenants."

After one hour's recess, the Association was called to order by the Moderator, who appointed Elder A. C. Davidson and Bro. J. W. Hudson to read the letters, and the following delegates enrolled their names:

Center Ridge—J. P. Melton, W. P. Jones, J. M. McIver, J. C. Yates.
Town Creek—J. F. Ellis.
Bethany—No delegate.
Benton—No delegate.
Ruhamah—No delegate.
Mt. Gilead—M. H. Traylor.
Providence—W. B. Crumpton, C. T. Munnerlyn, H. C. Graham, B. P. Moseley, J. B. Ellis.
Pleasant Hill—Sidney J. Catts, L. E. Barnes, Evan Barnes.
Sister Springs—Not represented.
Shiloh—D. B. Edwards, W. E. Clark, P. W. Johnson.
Selma—J. W. Hudson, Law Lamar, Isaac R. Eskew.

The election of officers resulted in choosing Elder E. F. Baber, Moderator; Isaac R. Eskew, Clerk; J. B. Ellis, Treasurer.

On motion, the order of business of last session was adopted for the present session. (See 2nd page.)

Correspondents received:

State Board—Elder W. B. Crumpton.
Home Board—Elder W. B. Crumpton.
Foreign Board—Elder W. B. Crumpton.
Ministerial Board—Elder W. B. Crumpton.
Cahaba Association—Elder A. C. Davidson, Wm. McCollum, John McCollum, L. O. Dawson.
Bethel—D. M. A. Dansby.

Correspondents appointed:

Cahaba Association—Elder W. B. Crumpton.

The report on Missions was read and made the special order for Wednesday at 11 A. M.

The Committee on Temperance was granted further time.

Added to the Committee on Sunday Schools H. C. Graham, J. M. McIver, and granted further time.

The following report, after being duly and earnestly discussed, was adopted:

REPORT ON LITERATURE.

National history is formed by the writers of a nation. The writers give the substance and the people consume that substance, thus proving the adaptability of the old truism, "The history of a nation is formed by what they read." It was this principle which caused ancient Egypt to tower in her scientific lore above the other nations of her day. It was this principle embodied in the power of Stoic erudition and Epicurean grandeur which gave to the world Spartan bravery, and to the land of Greece her classic name. It was this same principle embraced by the coarseness of the people's sentiments which gave the sensual cast to the Roman nation. It was this same principle embraced by the writing of Voltaire and others that gave to the land of France the era of a revolution which, in its demolishing strength, swept thousands from life before its frenzy was overpast.

But though, through its faults, human literature has filled the world with suffering, bloodshed and anarchy, thank God that inspiration sheds its holy light across our lives as a lamp to our feet and a light to our pathway. And like the glorious rays of the sun as they break through the clouds and pour radiance, not darkness, upon the world, so God's Word comes with its consolation for every one. It is the duty of every one to read as much good, pure literature as possible, thus strengthening the mind and heightening the enjoyment he can entertain in the topics of the day.

Resolved, That we, as an association, recommend to all our brethren the cheap editions of good books of the present day which, not like the banquets of a king, open their portals to a few, but, like the manna of Israel, are free to all.

Resolved, That we recommend the *Alabama Baptist* to all Baptists as a paper worthy, in every way, to be sustained by us as a denomination and as individuals.

Resolved, That we cordially recommend the publications of the American Baptist Publication Society; *Kind Words*, published by the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga., and the *Foreign Mission Journal*, published by the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond. S. J. CATTS, Chairman.

Committees to report at the present session:

On Documents—C. T. Munnerlyn, J. F. Ellis, L. E. Barnes.

State of Religion in the Churches—D. B. Edwards, J. P. Melton, W. E. Clark.

Finance—J. W. Hudson, Evan Barnes.

Religious Exercises—Law Lamar, M. H. Traylor and the pastor and deacons of Providence church.

Education—H. C. Graham, J. C. Yates, J. B. Ellis.

Time and Place of Next Meeting—P. W. Johnson, W. B. Crumpton, I. R. Eskew.

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS EXERCISES.

Wednesday, 9:30 A. M., service of song for thirty minutes, led by I. R. Eskew; 11 A. M., Missionary Sermon by Elder J. M. Fortune; Elder A. C. Davidson, alternate; 2 P. M., ten minutes service of song led by J. M. McIver.

Thursday, 9:30 A. M., thirty minutes service of song, led by S. J. Catts.

Introductory Sermon next session, J. W. Stewart; J. M. Fortune, alternate.

Missionary Sermon next session, J. M. Frost Jr.; J. L. West, alternate.

The Committee on Time was instructed to report Tuesday before the second Sunday in August, 1887, as the time for the next meeting of this body.

Adjourned to 9:30 A. M. Wednesday.

SECOND DAY.

Devotional exercises from 9:30 to 10 A. M.

The Association was called to order at 10 o'clock by the Moderator; minutes of the first day read and approved.

Heard and adopted the following report on the

STATE OF RELIGION IN THE CHURCHES:

We find two churches have had revivals. Three report prayer meetings. Three report Sunday schools. Five report ladies' mission societies. One reports a Church Mission Society. No report at all from three churches. Contributions less than last year. D. B. EDWARDS, Chairman.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

We find that two of our churches have asked for the Association to meet with them at its next session, viz., Pleasant Hill and Town Creek.

The Pleasant Hill church has licensed Bro. Sidney J. Catts to preach the gospel.

Selma church has ordained Brethren Law Lamar and Isaac R. Eskew as deacons. J. F. ELLIS, Chairman.

On motion, J. W. Hudson, J. P. Melton, with B. F. Ellis invited to assist, were appointed to take into consideration the work of strengthening and encouraging the churches at Farmersville, Benton and Sister Springs and an unorganized congregation at Vasserville.

J. F. Ellis read a request from the State Mission Board to this Association to give the Board ($1000) one thousand dollars

for all purposes (except ministerial education), and moved the adoption of the request and the appointment of a committee to prorate the amount among the churches of the Association. Carried.

J. F. Ellis, J. W. Stewart and W. E. Clark were appointed the Committee on Apportionment.

Adjourned until 11 o'clock.

At 11 o'clock the Missionary Sermon was preached by Elder A. C. Davidson from Isaiah 53rd chapter, first clause of fourth verse.

REPORT ON ABSENT CHURCHES AND VASSERVILLE WORK.

Your Committee, to whom was referred a resolution looking to the strengthening of the churches at Farmersville, Benton and Sister Springs and of the congregation at Vasserville, recommend

1st. That an Executive Committee be appointed by this Association.

2nd. That said committee be instructed to correspond with the Secretary of our State Mission Board with reference to the work assigned to us.

Respectfully submitted, J. W. HUDSON, Chm'n.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—J. W. Hudson, J. P. Melton, and B. F. Ellis were appointed the committee provided for as above.

After thorough and telling discussion of that subject, the Association adopted the following

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Your Committee learn from the Secretary of the State Mission Board that contributions of this Association for State Missions are less than they were the preceding year, a fact which they deplore and which we trust will not be the case again. Notwithstanding the contributions are less, the demands are greater, which should cause redoubled efforts on our part in the cause of our Master, which we consider the cause of missions. Let us take our Savior who, while on earth went about doing good and spreading the tidings of salvation, as our example, and let us not relax our efforts, but take courage and go forward in our Christian duties.

There were sixty-five evangelists in the field, but the number had to be reduced to forty-five for want of funds during the past conventional year. The report during the last conventional year is more gratifying in regard to the Home and Foreign Mission Boards.

There has been an increase of contributions to both Home and Foreign Missions with a corresponding increase of work. The Home Board, at Atlanta, has the supervision of the work in the Southern States and Cuba. From the latter we have gratifying reports but no statistics.

The Foreign Board, at Richmond, Va., has stations in China, Italy, South America, Mexico and Africa from which come encouraging reports, for which we should be thankful.

The report on Education was made the special order for 10:30 A. M., Thursday, having been informally postponed at the time previously set for it.

The committee to whom assigned, submitted the following report, which was adopted,

ON APPORTIONMENT.

(Pledges for ministerial aid are not included in this apportionment.)

Center Ridge church	$ 40 00	Bethany	20 00
Benton	15 00	Mt. Gilead	35 00
Providence	150 00	Pleasant Hill	60 00
Sister Springs	5 00	Selma	550 00
Shiloh	50 00	Town Creek	80 00
Total			$1005 00

J. F. ELLIS, Chairman.

The Committee on Temperance submitted its report, which was made the special order to follow the discussion on education.

Adjourned to 9:30 Thursday.

THIRD DAY.

Assembled in devotional meeting at 9:30 A. M.

The Association was called to order at 10 o'clock.

Heard and adopted the following:

REPORT ON TIME AND PLACE.

We recommend Tuesday before the second Sunday in August, 1887, as the time, and Pleasant Hill Church as the place, for the next meeting of this Association.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Upon examination of church letters, we find five that report Sabbath schools with favorable accounts of the work since our last meeting; but regret to say the interest has declined in some of our churches.

We earnestly recommend a more active and practical co-operation of older members of the churches in this work, and trust that there will be no abating of efforts until every church within our bounds can claim a successful school.

We recommend the Sunday school literature published by the American Baptist Publication Society, and also that of the Home Mission Board, principally *Kind Words*.

Several speeches followed the report, which resulted in considerable enthusiasm on Sunday school work.

Standing Committees to report next session were announced as follows. (Committees are requested to write their reports on paper of ordinary note size and to confine themselves to one side of the paper in order to save the delay incident to transcribing. The reports of the committees of 1886, with one praiseworthy exception, had all to be transcribed before the printer would undertake to print them):

Missions—J. W. Stewart, M. H. Traylor, I. R. Eskew.
Sunday Schools—J. W. Hudson, H. C. Graham, J. F. Ellis.
Temperance—J. M. McIver, L. E. Barnes, W. E. Clark.
Literature—J. M. Fortune, T. S. Bowen, Jas. Bryant.
Education—C. T. Munnerlyn, Law Lamar, J. P. Melton.

The subject of education next claimed attention, being the special order for the hour. After earnest and instructive discussion by several brethren, Brother Crumpton made an appeal for ministerial aid, and pledges were promptly made as follows:

Center Ridge	$ 20 00	Willie Crumpton	1 00
Town Creek	20 00	E. F. Baber, Jr.	50
Bethany	5 00	Cleveland Baber	50
Benton	5 00	Mrs. Berry	1 00
Ruhamah	5 00	Mrs. Wm. Day	1 00
Mt. Gilead		Mrs. Hare	1 00
Providence	50 00	Mrs. J. C. Yates	1 00
Pleasant Hill	20 00	Mrs. Nancy Day	1 00
Sister Springs		Miss Sallie McIver	1 00
Shiloh	10 00	Mrs. B. F. Ellis	1 00
Selma	100 00	Miss May Barnes	1 00
M. H. Traylor	5 00	Miss L. Melton	1 00
L. O. Dawson	1 00	Miss Mattie Ellis	1 00
John McCollum	1 00	Miss Johnson	1 00
J. M. McIver	1 00	Miss Annie Barnes	1 00
J. W. Stewart	1 00	Miss Bettie Stanfill	50
J. R. Cane	1 00	R. G. Powers	2 50
W. E. Clark	1 00	J. C. Yates	2 50
L. E. Barnes	1 00	P. W. Johnson	2 50

The report was adopted as read.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

(This report deals with the question of removal of Howard College.)

Education is the Archimidean lever that moves the world on its pathway to civilization and progress, and it finds its resting place in the enlightened conscience of mankind. Its importance is recognized as paramount among all civilized nations. The necessity for it in order to secure the highest order of civilization is not a question for argument, for it has been so plainly determined by the experience of all enlightened nations, that the proposition has become an axiom as universally acknowledged as the plainest truth in mathematics.

Education is the greatest foe of oppression and tyranny in government, and it is the greatest bulwark of Christianity, so far as mere human agencies operate in its establishment.

Your Committee, in this connection, are moved to adopt the eloquent language of that eminent Baptist divine and experienced educator, Dr. L. R. Gwaltney, in a report on the subject of education, addressed to the Cahaba Baptist Association in 1877, where he says:

"Education trains the mind to vigorous thought, fits it for the investigation of truth, enlarges the circle of spiritual life, and multiplies the means for Christian activity and usefulness. He who wilfully throws away his own opportunities for culture, robs God and man of the more extended influence for good which he might have exerted. He who neglects to give his children the best education within their reach, denies them their natural right, narrows the sphere of their intellectual activity, and abridges, by just so much, the effectiveness of that life-work which every one owes to his 'day and generation.' Parents may well ponder their responsibility in this matter."

The question then of how and where to educate the rising generation so that they may become fitted to further advance the world's enlightenment and happiness, and to attain still greater achievements in civilization than have

been already won is one of the greatest consequence to all mankind, and is a question especially worthy of consideration by religious associations when assembled to promote the advancement of the Christian religion.

The best thinkers of the Baptist denomination, indeed of all Christian organizations, are of the opinion that in this free country of ours denominational schools are the surest safeguard against that union of church and state so inimical to religious liberty and the true spirit of Christianity; and thus we find that the religious denominations of the United States have established seats of learning all over the land under the immediate supervision and patronage of the churches by which they were established.

The Baptists of Alabama are to be congratulated upon the flourishing condition of their institutions of learning, established, as they are, upon the broadest basis of religious freedom, but earnestly and with true Christian spirit seeking solely to rear the youth of the land "in the fear and admonition of the Lord."

These institutions are worthy the tenderest care of our churches, as a body, and the heartiest support of their individual membership; and we heartily commend them to that generous support so necessary for their continued prosperity and usefulness.

Your Committee believe that Baptist opinion on questions of Baptist policy in Alabama can only be ascertained through the expression of the various associations. As germain to the subject now under consideration, we, therefore, consider it proper to state that, in our opinion, the removal of Howard College from its present location, as suggested in the last Baptist Convention, would be injurious to the best interests of that institution.

H. C. Graham,
J. C. Yates,
J. B. Ellis,
Committee.

The Association next considered and adopted the

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Temperance in all things is enjoined in the word of God. "Add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge temperance."

Temperance means moderation in the indulgence of the natural appetites; moderation in every particular, sobriety.

If it means moderation in all things necessary, it must also mean the entire disuse of injurious things.

It is the opinion of your Committee, that the use of alcoholic stimulants as a beverage, is always wrong, and contrary to the laws of God.

We might say much of its being the monster evil of the age, of the vast multitudes of bodies, of fortunes and souls wrecked yearly, of the untold woe of widowed hearts and impoverished orphans, but the question is, What must be done to arrest the vice?

Temperance organizations have done much in that direction and we trust will do more. We say the time has come when the liquor traffic must down.

J. C. Yates, Chairman.

On motion, a verbal statement of the Treasurer of the last session was received (in lieu of a written report), to the effect that he had disposed of all moneys as directed.

On motion of Bro. S. J. Catts, the Association passed a unanimous vote of thanks to Providence church and community for their cordial hospitality.

The Moderator announced the following:

Delegates to the State Convention at its next session--Edward Day, T. U. Crumpton, J. O. Robertson, R. P. Anderson, Wm. Smith, Evan Barnes, Jos. Bryant, J. F. Averytt, D. G. Hall, J. M. McIver.

(Each church should appoint five delegates in addition to the above.)

On motion, the hat collection taken up after the Missionary Sermon ($13.85), was turned over to Secretary Crumpton for distribution by the Board's rule.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet again on Tuesday before the second Sunday in August, 1887, with the Pleasant Hill church.

The parting hymn was sung and the parting hand extended, and one of the best meetings of Selma Association was closed with an invocation of God's blessing upon its work.

E. F. BABER, Moderator.

I. R. ESKEW, Clerk.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

NAMES OF CHURCHES.	MISSIONS.			EDUCATION.			COLPORTAGE.			CHURCH EXPENSES.							
	F.	H.	S.	Ministerial Aid.	End. H. C	Special.	General.	Special.	Minutes.	Preaching.	Incidental.	Indigent Ministers.	A. B. P. S.	Savannah Cemetery.	No. of Members.	TOTAL.	Average per member.
*Center Ridge	7 50	$ 5 00	$ 12 35	$ 25 00					$ 1 50	$ 200 00	$ 150 00				57	$ 401 35	$7 04
*Town Creek	3 00	5 00	12 00	12 00					1 50			$5 00			69	38 50	56
Town Creek Sunday School		4 20					$ 4 30									8 50	
‡Bethany																	
Benton			1 15						1 25						8	2 40	30
‡Ruhamah																	
Mt Gilead		2 00	15 20	12 50					1 50				$4 00		21	35 20	1 67
*Providence	60 75	15 00	75 40	103 35			7 50			400 00	253 00		4 30		94	919 30	9 78
*Pleasant Hill	2 60	2 20	4 85	6 15			5 25		1 25	300 00					64	322 30	5 03
‡Sister Springs																	
Shiloh	4 00	1 50	4 70	5 00					2 50						65	17 70	28
Selma (about)	166 68	166 65	166 67						3 55	1,800 00	500 00				291	2,803 55	9 56
Association hat collection	3 15	3 15	7 56													13 86	6
L. A. S., Town Creek														$1 75		1 75	
Total	$ 247 68	$ 204 70	$ 299 88	$ 164 00			$ 17 05		$13 05	$2,700 00	$ 903 00	$5 00	$8 30	$1 75	669	$4,564 41	$6 82

*L. A. S. contributions included. ‡No report.

STATISTICAL REPORT.

NAMES OF CHURCHES.	PASTORS' ADDRESS.	CLERKS' ADDRESS.	SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS' ADDRESS.	CHURCHES.							SUNDAY SCHOOLS.				
				Preaching Day.	Prayer Meet'g Day.	No. Mem. last rept.	Gain.	Loss.	Members now.	No. of Papers.	What Day.	How Many Months.	No. Offi'rs & Teach.	No. of Students.	Total.	No. of Papers.
a Center Ridge	W G Curry, Furman	J C Yates, Minter		2	....	59	...	2	57	....	w	...	6	35	41	....
a Town Creek	J M Fortune, Pleasant Hill.	T K Whitman, Benton.		2–4	w	69	4	4	69	....	w	...	6	30	36	....
a Bethany (*b*)	" " " "	J O Robertson, Collir'ne		3	..	30	....	2	28	....	w	...	....	...	....	....
Benton	E F Baber, Collirene	T U Crumpton, Benton.		2	...	3	5	....	8	....	*c*	....	....	....	....	....
Ruhamah (*b*)	" " "	....	....	..	...	9	....	5	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Mt. Gilead	" " "	M H Traylor, Benton		3	....	18	3	....	21	....	....	...	..	....	....	....
a Providence	J W Stewart, Orrville	J B Ellis, Orrville		2–4	...	94	4	4	94	...	2—4	....	....	45	45	65
a Pleasant Hill (*d*)	B H Crumpton, Evergreen.	J W Bailey, Pleas't Hill		1–3	w	57	7	1	64	....	w	...	6	50	56	...
Sister Springs (*b*)	E F Baber, Gollirene	W L Smoke, Benton		...	....	18	....	....	17	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
a Shiloh	" " "	W E Clark, Soap Stone.		1	....	56	9	...	65	....	...	....	....	....	....	...
a Selma	J M Frost, Jr., Selma.	A J Goodwin, Selma	H S D Mallory, Selma	w	w	258	33	....	291	....	w	12	21	140	161	140
a East Selma Chapel†	....	....	J W Stillwell, Selma.	2–4	w	....	....	....	....	..	w	12	7	50	57	50
Total	....	....	....	....	....	671	65	18	718	....	....	....	46	350	396	255

a They report a Society, but give no particulars. *b* Not represented; statistics taken from report of 1885. *c* They attend a Union School. *d* Have licensed Sidney J. Catts, and will entertain the Association next year. †No church organization.

With a view to facilitating and promoting the work of the Association and in answer to the wish of several church clerks, I have made up the following:

FORM OF CHURCH LETTER TO THE ASSOCIATION.

. . . . . .

The . . . . . Baptist Church,

At 188

To the Selma Association, Greeting:

Dear Brethren:—To represent us in your deliberations, we have chosen as delegates : . . . . . .

. . . . . .

As alternates : . . . . . .

. . . . . .

GENERAL REPORT.

GIVE FULL NAME, P. O., COUNTY AND STATE.

Pastor . . . . . Address . . . . . .

Clerk . . . . . " . . . . . .

S. S. Supt . . . . . " . . . . . .

Preaching days . . . . . Average attendance . . . . Prayer meeting days . . . . Average attendance . . . . Any special meeting . . . . Who preached . . . . Did church do its part . . . . What result . . No. members last report . . . Gain . . Loss . . . Members now . . . No. religious papers taken . . . Sunday school? (yes or no.) What days . . How many months in year . . . No. of officers . . . Teachers . . . Students . . . Total . . . No. papers and periodicals used . . .

Make out your Sunday schools' finance report separate from your church's. A handsome award will be made by the clerk of 1886, for the best average S. S. contributions to the Association. Ladies society? . . . How many members? . . Meeting days . . President . . . . address . . . Secretary . . . . address . . . Young ladies society? . . . No. members . . . Meeting days . . Report other societies if any. Send society money reports, on form below *separate* from your church report.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

We take our collections . . . . . .

Education	Ministerial Aid	Forwarded	
	Endowment H. Col.	Church Expenses	Pd. Pastor and as't
	Special (say what for)		Incidental
Missions.	State	Indigent Ministers	
	Home	Am. Bap. Pub. Society	
	Foreign	Savannah Cemetery	
Colportage	General	Total contributions	
	Special	Average contributions per mem	
		We have pd and hold vouchers for	
		We send cash	

. . . . . Moderator.

. . . . . Clerk.

Blank letters, printed somewhat after this form, will be issued to the clerks of the various churches in correspondence with the Selma Association, in time to be filled out for the next meeting.

Matter of irregular nature, may be written on the reverse side.